

UNDERGROUND

Catholicism

Presents:

The Historical Jesus!

Did Jesus Exist?

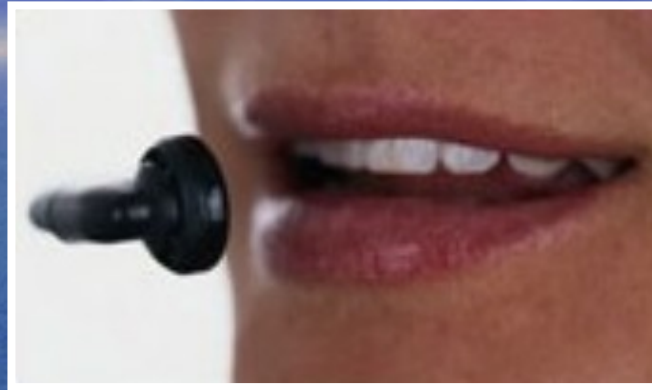
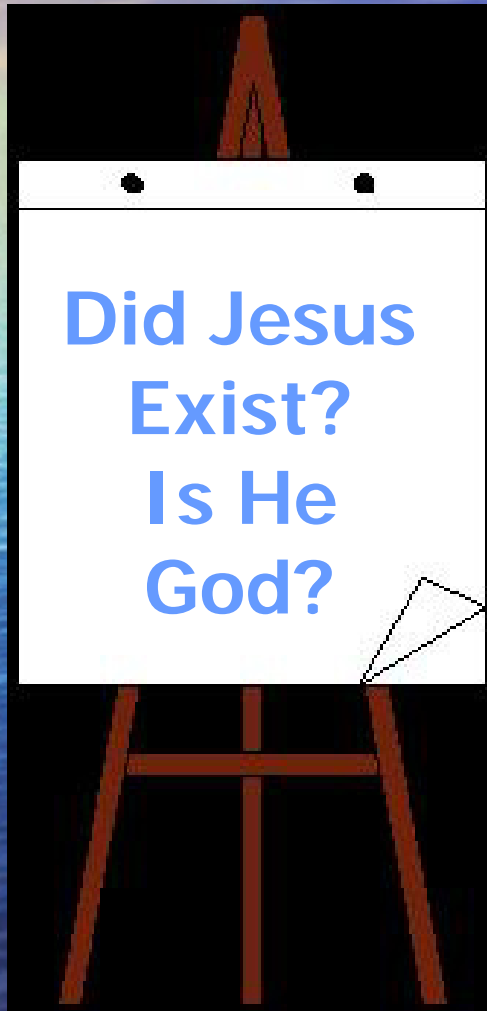
Is He God?

Underground Catholicism: The Historical Jesus

Meeting Outline:

- **The Historical Reality of Jesus**
 - Evaluating New Testament manuscripts the **SAME WAY** we evaluate every other historical manuscript
 - Story or History?
- **Who is Jesus?**
 - Liar?
 - Lunatic?
 - Lord?

What Do YOU Say?



Current Events

USATODAY.com - Long-lost gospel of Judas recasts 'traitor' - Microsoft Internet Explorer

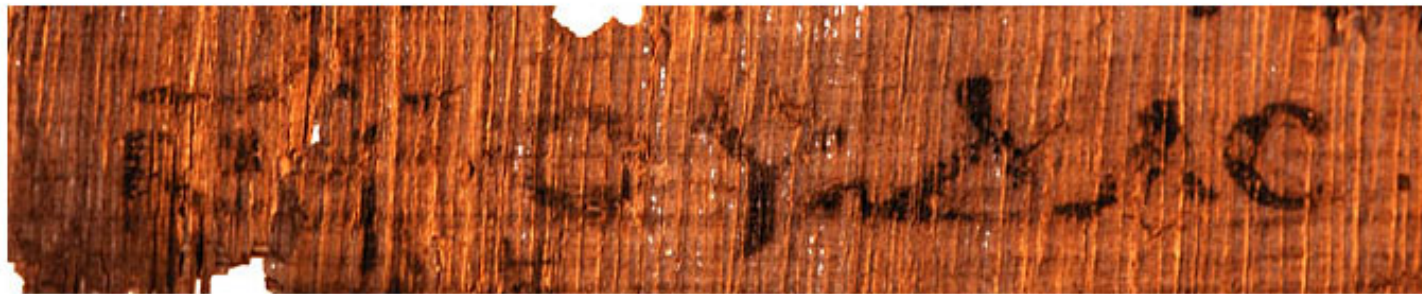
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By Kenneth Garrett, National Geographi

The only known surviving copy of the long-lost gospel of Judas bears the Coptic script that reads "Judas."

Long-lost gospel of Judas recasts 'traitor'

Updated 4/6/2006 10:13 PM

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By Dan Vergano and Cathy Lynn Grossman, USA TODAY

Lost for centuries and bound for controversy, the so-called gospel of Judas was unveiled by scholars Thursday.

With a plot twist worthy of *The Da Vinci Code*, the gospel — 13 papyrus sheets bound in leather and found in a cave in Egypt — purports to relate the last days of Jesus' life, from the



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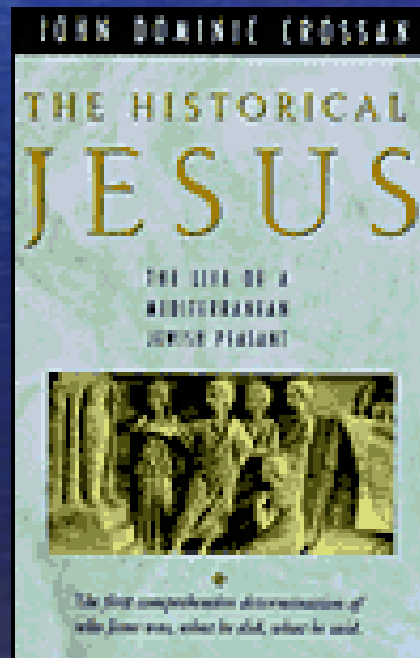
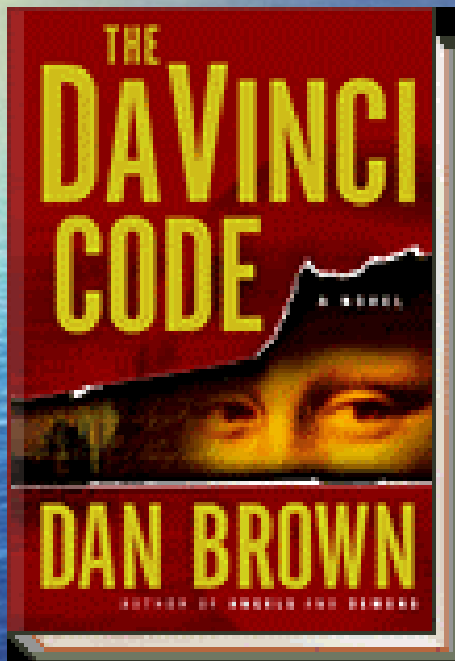
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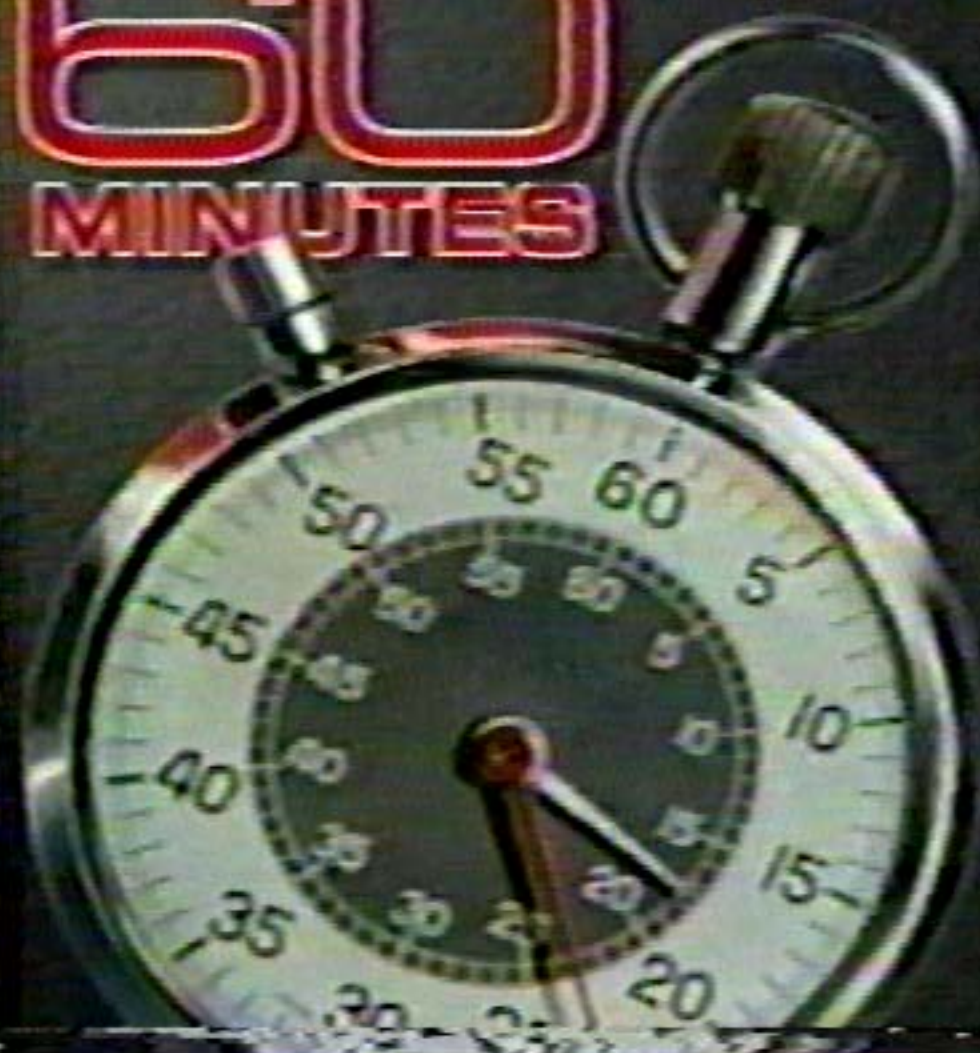
Media vs. History

Is Media Anti-History?



Underground Catholicism: The Historical Jesus

60
MINUTES



FOX NEWS .com THE O'REILLY FACTOR Updated: 4-19-06 2:48pm ET

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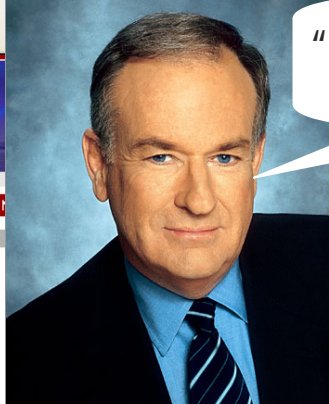
Traitor No More?

Friday, April 14, 2006
FOX NEWS

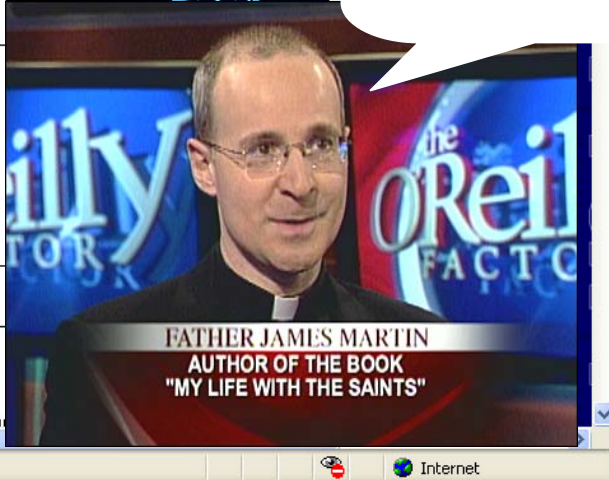
This is a *partial* transcript from "The O'Reilly Factor," April 13, 2006, that has been edited for clarity.

Watch "The O'Reilly Factor" weeknights at 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. ET and listen to the "Radio Factor!"

BILL O'REILLY, HOST: In the "Impact Segment" tonight, you may have heard that a 1,700-year-old document discovered in Egypt and published by **National Geographic** says the apostle



"No Gospel is History"



"Right. You can't Look at them as literal history"

4/14/2006

Catechism of the Catholic Church 126: The Church holds firmly that the four Gospels, "Whose historicity she unhesitatingly affirms" faithfully hand on what Jesus really did and taught while he lived among men.

Historical Criteria

How Historians Determine if a Manuscript is Reliable

- 1. How Many Copies of Manuscript Exist**
 - More Copies = Better Reliability
- 2. How Close to Actual Event was Manuscript Produced**
 - Closer to Event = More Reliable
- 3. Consistency Between Manuscripts**
 - Are they Saying the Same Thing

Historical Criteria

How the NT Gospels Stack-Up!

1. **Number of Copies**
 - **New Testament: Over 5k Copies in Greek/5k Other Languages**
 - **Others (Julius Caesar, Plato, Aristotle): Dozens**
2. **Produced Close to Actual Event**
 - **New Testament: Within Decades**
 - **Others (Julius Caesar, Plato, Aristotle): Hundreds of Years Later**
3. **Consistency Between Manuscripts**
 - **New Testament: Variations are less than 1%**
 - **Others (Julius Caesar, Plato, Aristotle): Significant Variations: Chapters Missing, Paragraphs Conflict, Sections Edited**

Historical Criteria

How the Gospel Stack-Up

Verdict:

"The New Testament Gospels are overwhelmingly more trustworthy than any other ancient manuscript"

Source: "Jolted by the Historical Reality of Christ" Article in This Rock Magazine

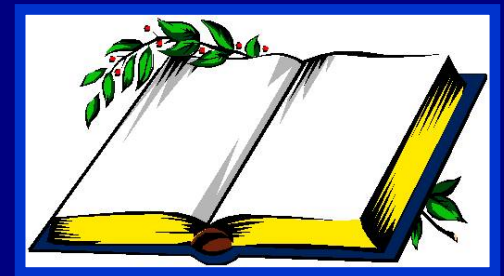


Compare with Gospel of Judas

Underground Catholicism: The Historical Jesus

Claimed to be God

- Matt 16:15-16 Jesus commends Peter after he proclaimed that Jesus is God's Son
- John 5:18 Jews try to kill Jesus for making himself equal to God
- John 10:30-33 Jesus says that He & the Father are One; the Jews try to stone him for making himself God
- Luke 5:17-26 Jesus forgives sins; Jews say he is blaspheming because no one can forgive sins but God; Jesus heals to show Divinity
- Mark 14:61-64 Jesus answers "I AM" when asked if he is the Son of the God
- John 8:19 To know Jesus, is to know God
- John 12:45 To see Jesus is to see God
- Mark 9:37 To receive Jesus is to receive God
- John 15:23 To hate Jesus is to hate God
- John 5:23 To honor Jesus is to honor God
- John 8:58-59 Before Abraham was, I AM



Outcome

Jesus Claimed to be God

True

Untrue

GOD!

Knew It

Didn't Know It

Lord

Liar

Lunatic

Characteristics of God

Jesus' Credentials

Moral Character Matches Claims

➤ Sinless

- John 8:46 Who Convicts of Sin?
- Matt 4:1-11 Tempted by Devil
- 1 Pet 2:22 Committed no sin
- Matt 27:23 Pilate: What Sin?
- Matt: 27:54 This is Son of God

Power Over Nature

- Mark 4:41 Calmed Storm
- John 2:9 Water to Wine
- Luke 9 10-17 Fed 5k w/5 loaves
- Matt 9 18-26 Raise Dead Girl
- John 11:48 Enemies don't deny miracles but plot to kill Jesus!

Power Over Sickness, Disease & Death

➤ MANY examples; here are a few:

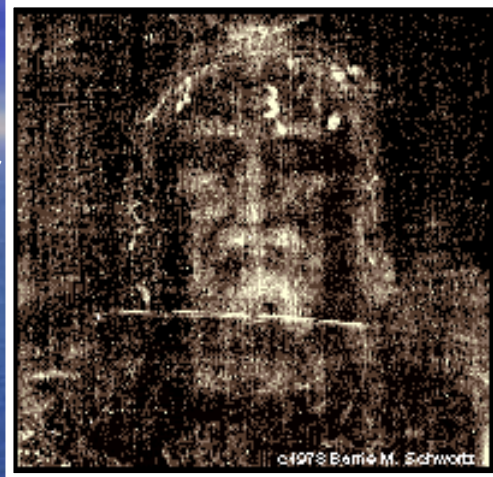
- John 9: Man blind since birth cured
- Matt 8 1-4: Cure leper
- Luke 5-25 Cure paralyzed man
- Mk 3: 1-6: Cure man w/ withered hand
- John 11 1-44 Raise Lazarus

The Case for Resurrection

**Legitimacy
of Christianity
rests on the
Resurrection;**

**Without it, there is
no meaning! "If Christ
has not been raised,
our preaching is
useless & so is
your faith."**

1 Cor 15:14



Crucifixion

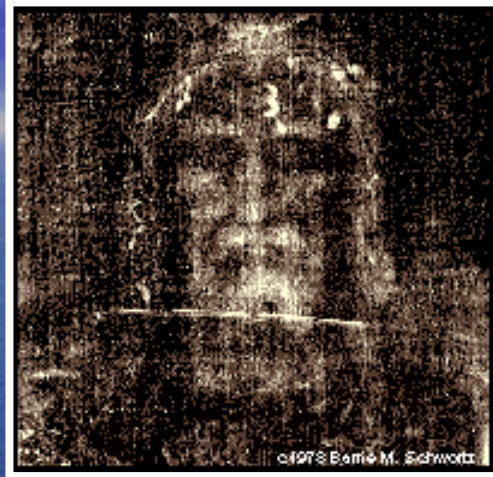
- Brutal Torture
- Public Execution
- Hands Nailed
- Feet Nailed
- Suffocation Death
- Sword Into Side
- Body In Tomb
- Heavy Rock
- Guards

**Tomb Found
EMPTY!**

The Case for Resurrection

Show Me The Body!

1. Disciples Stole the Body
2. Jewish or Roman Authorities Stole Body
3. Women Went to Wrong Tomb
4. Swoon: Christ Didn't Actually Die

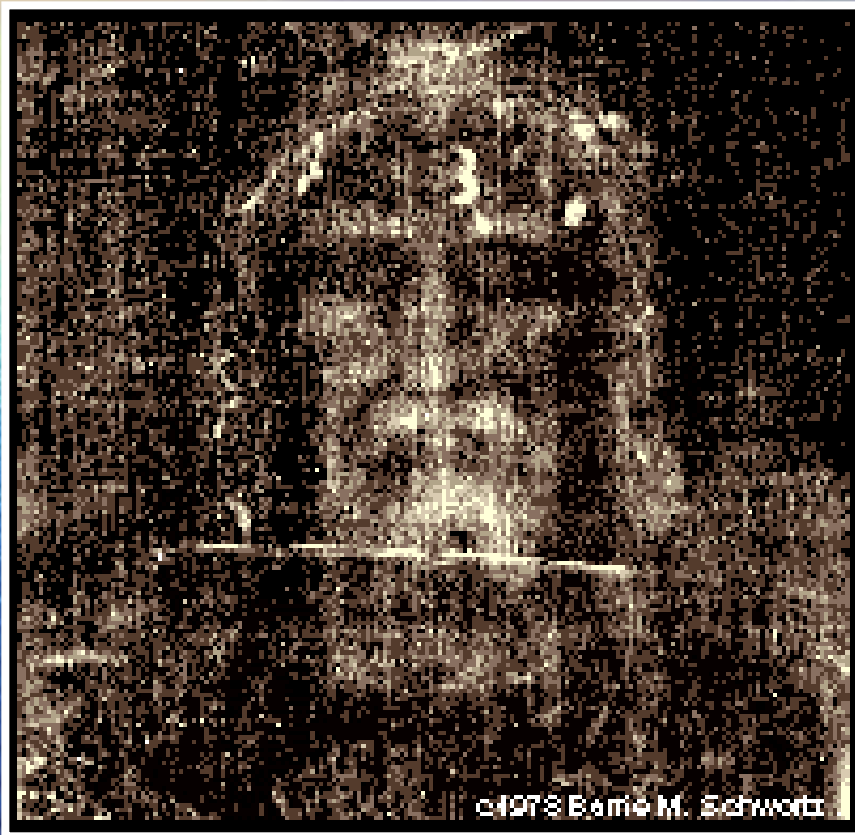


He Actually Rose!

No One Dies for a Lie *How 12 Apostles Died*

1. Peter: Crucified Upside down
2. Andrew: Crucified on an "X" Cross
3. James: (Less) Stoned to Death
4. Thomas: Speared to Death
5. John: Lived, but Boiled in Oil
6. Bartholomew: Flayed
7. James (Greater) Beheaded
8. Philip: Crucified
9. Matthew: Speared to Death
10. Jude: Stoned to Death
11. Simon: Crucifixion
12. Matthias: Stoned

What do I do NOW?



- You **KNOW** the **TRUTH**
- What is **YOUR** response?
- Do you **WANT** to **WANT** Him?
- Is He **IMPORTANT** to you **NOW**?

UNDERGROUND

Catholicism

Thanks!
Questions?